Volume 6, Edition 2

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS

February 2002

LICENSE CLASS STARTING

VOMARC is sponsoring another Technician license class starting Tuesday, February 26 and finishing up the week prior to the April 27 VOMARC Hamfest.

The club officers are specifically targeting Sonoma Valley teachers in the hope that we can get a few new and enthusiastic hams in our elementary, middle and high school classrooms. We have had teachers at Altimira Middle School and Dunbar Elementary School who have been licensed. Both teachers effectively used amateur radio to teach subjects ranging from science and mathematics to geography and social studies.

ARRL currently has a grant program with money and teaching materials specifically for use by teachers in the classroom. The ARRL is taking a leadership role in exposing young people to amateur radio. That effort is a critical one for the survival of the hobby. The population of amateurs will continue to steadily decline without interesting and involving the next generation in amateur radio. There will be no compelling reason to allocate valuable radio spectrum to what would become a small recreational interest group.

VOMARC has taken an active role in the past in seeking new membership through our recruiting and training activities. Our classes in the early 1990s generated many active licensed operators and new members, but many of those members have dropped away from the club over the past few years. VOMARC is far from moribund, but the club has seen more active days and better participation.

Our problem is that there seems to be too much to do within too little time. Increasing our membership is just the first step in revitalizing our club. The next and most important thing is to come up with some fun activities for the members.

Picnics and operating are a good start. Field trips and operating are other ideas. While most of the members would agree that more activities would be fun, it is sometimes hardest of all to convince a few individual members to take the lead and organize those activities.

What VOMARC could use right now would be a few more of our current members taking on the job of recruiting new members from the existing Sonoma Valley amateur radio population. We also need help in encouraging our local teachers to find time in their busy schedules to pursue this fascinating hobby and then share it with their students. If we could start with six or eight VOMARC members willing to share the work, no one would be overburdened and our goals could easily be met.

As soon as you finish reading the newsletter, pick up the phone and give Jim Hill, Steve Todd or Darrel Jones a call to find out more about turning this license class into a shot in the arm for VOMARC. The club has the instructors lined up for the class, but the real need is for members who can reach out to the rest of the community and find the people who will share our hobby for the future.

FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

DXDXDX The HF bands have been quite good these past days. I managed to snag 5U4R, Niger and XW0X, Laos. Sanford, N7PIB, reports working T88SI in the Palau group. Ken, N6KM, and I had a nice three-way with 9Y4VU the other night on 20 meters. I know that DX is not for everyone, so I apologize if I talk about it too much. Let me know what your interests are and we can get them put in the newsletter. Talks are ongoing to get Field Day held at Maxwell park. I have spoken to the ranger in charge and there is no problem in having FD there. It will mean some paper work to fill out, but I think that it will be worth it. Flyers are being sent out to advertise our upcoming ham class at the Sonoma Fire Station. You can help. Talk it up among your friends. We really would like to have a large class this time around. Hamfest is also right around the corner. We would like to invite hobby craft groups to join us. If you know of such groups, let them know about our offer. Another reminder that the ARRL is again doing battle to save the 70cm band from commercial encroachment. Please consider a donation to the ARRL to help them in this endeavor. As of this writing, I am trying to get a speaker for the next meeting on the 20th. Lets hope for a large turnout. See you on the 20th.73, Jim

ARRL GOING TO THE MAT ON 70-CM BAND THREAT

ARRL officials met recently with FCC staff members as part of the League's effort to stave off a band threat on 70 cm. ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, delivered an ex parte presentation to FCC Office of Engineering and Technology staffers on January 14. At issue was SAVI Technology's plan—already tentatively agreed to by the FCC--to deploy unlicensed transient RF identification devices between 425 and 435 MHz at much higher field strengths and duty cycles than Part 15 rules now permit for such devices. RFID tags are used to track and inventory parcel shipments. "We told them that this was the worst possible choice of bands for these RFIDs," Imlay said. "Besides, there's no technical justification for that choice of frequencies." The request to use 70 cm has more to do with economics than technology, he said, because SAVI needs to bring down the cost of RFIDs in

order to make a profit. Imlay added that the ARRL would "do whatever it takes" to stave off the threat, including further direct appeals to FCC staff. The ARRL plans to file "strongly worded" comments on the SAVI petition by the February 12comment deadline. Reply comments are due by March 12, 2002. Imlay said he was assured that SAVI's request "was not a done deal." The ARRL's January 14 ex parte presentation was complemented by an interference study prepared by ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, and ARRL Senior Engineer Zack Lau, W1VT. A copy of the interference study and more information is available on the ARRL Web site "Band Threats" page<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/rm-1005/SaviExParte.pdf>.
FROM THE ARRL NEWSLETTER

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FIELD DAY!
The date for Field Day 2002 is June 22-23, according to the ARRL Contest calendar (Last FULL weekend in June).

HAM GEAR AVAILABLE

John, W6TWQ, said that Frank Masden's tower is available to anyone in the club for free. Frank, AB6SG, just needs someone to come and take it down. It's a three section, guyed tower, and will take a little work to get it down. If you are interested, give Frank a call at 938-8074. Other club members will be available to help with the disassembly.

FORMER VOMARC MEMBER SK

Please remember in your thoughts Clifford Gordon, WA6GMP, who became a SK on Feb. 2, 2002.
Cliff was born in Scribner, Nebraska, 84 years ago. He was a World War II veteran who served as a radioman in the submarine service on eight patrols. He worked at the Sonoma Developmental Center for 30 years.
Cliff was a long-time past member of the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club.

NOT TOO LATE TO BECOME PART OF ARDF TEAM USA:

ARRL Amateur Radio Direction Finding Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV, says he has submitted Team USA's Letter of Intent to Participate in the 11th ARDF World Championships, September 2-7 in the Slovak Republic. Twelve stateside ARDFers ranging in age from 11 to 60 have expressed interest in attending, but Moell says it's not too late to add your own name for Team USA consideration. He said the divisions for males under age 40 and for all females still have several openings. Those interested should contact Moell via e-mail, homingin@aol.com. For more information, visit the World Championships Web site <http://www.ardf.sk>.For more information on Team USA, radio-

orienteering in the US, and the upcoming USA Championships near Atlanta, visit Moell's Homing In Web site <http://www.homingin.com>.

HAMFEST NOT FAR AWAY

The VOMARC Hamfest will be on April 27 this year, and planning has already started on the event.

It has been suggested this year that VOMARC partner with one or two other local groups to make more efficient use of the Veterans' Building by having other non-profits participate in the swap meet. Some ideas are for local craft or quilt groups to join VOMARC at the swap. The advantage would be to attract more of the local population to the breakfast and swap as well as to spread the work of organizing, staffing and publicizing the event.

The Hamfest committee needs your input right away. If you or your spouse are a member of a local craft, quilt, garden or rock group, or if you have any other suggestions, please give Darrel, WD6BOR, a call this week at 996-4494 with any ideas and information you have.

A Look at the Low Power Scrapbook
by Fred BonavIta, K5QLF
k5qlJ@yahoo.com

Several times a year, I find myself digging through my collection of SPRAT, the quarterly publication of the G-QRP Club, in search of an article that was mentioned in something I was reading or for a project to build. Given the fact my QRP library has more than 60 copies of SPRAT, searching for something in a back issue can be a chore. The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) has ridden to the rescue somewhat with publication of Low Power Scrapbook, a collection of major and a few minor articles that appeared in SPRAT since 1983 to more recent times. Steve White, G3ZVW, selected items for this collection. The Rev. George Dobbs, G3RJV, the driving force behind the club, wrote the preface, but this is otherwise an RSGB effort. What we have are 320 pages of informative technical articles which have made SPRAT the leader in QRP-related publications. This is the second volume of its kind. The club in 1983 printed the G-QRP Club Circuit Handbook, which included the cream of articles that appeared between 1975 and 1982; and the scrapbook picks up from there. The club also printed the well-received G-QRP Antenna Handbook in 1992, and a few items that appeared in it are found here, too. Among the authors, some of whom are Silent Keys, are Ha-Jo Brandt, DJIZB; Wes Hayward, W7Z01; C.F. Rockey, W9SCH; George Burt, GM30XX; Mike Michael, W3TS; David Stockton, GM4ZNQ; Roy Gregson, W6EMT; Doug DeMaw, WIFB; and, of course, George Dobbs. Their contributions include transceivers, transmitters,

receivers, SWR/power meters, and antennas. It's a very eclectic collection. This scrapbook appears to have been assembled by reproducing whole pages from SPRAT, as opposed to the 1983 club-published version which filtered out extraneous items and presented only material directly associated with the article. For instance, this latest effort includes some obituaries, a plug for the 1989 Yeovil QRP convention and a contest preceding it, and advertisements for equipment for sale, all as they appeared originally. Simply reprinting pages without editing also means original errors may have been repeated here without benefit of whatever corrections appeared in SPRAT later. It's also a waste of space that could have been devoted to more useful information. As was the case with the circuit handbook, none of these articles is dated, which can be confusing when trying to connect one with what could be a follow-up piece a few pages later. The reader, for instance, has to guess whether an article on page 210 on an SWR meter corrects something on the same subject on page 192 (it does). And on page 260 is part two of a piece on a 20-meter ssb transceiver, but part one can't be found. This is not to say RSGB's Low Power Scrapbook is not a worthy addition to the well-stocked QRP library. Rather, it is to warn readers there are a few flaws in it. I still welcome it to my collection. Low Power Scrapbook is available from ARRL for $19.95 plus shipping ($5 for one copy). Stock No. LPSB. Call toll free 1-888-277-5289.

QRP Homebrewer #7, December 2002

December, 1948

Reprinted from ***GIL***, published by the American Radio Relay League, 1986

Have you Renewed?

I have checked the club membership records very carefully and find that there are still some members who have not renewed their membership for 2002. To assist you, I printed your membership expiration date on the address label.
Now, even though I have scrutinized the database closely, there is the possibility that I have not recorded a payment that you sent. So, if I have made a mistake, please let me know. Otherwise, I am waiting for a flood of mail with renewal checks.
Your label looks something like this:

12/31/01
Steve Toad, K2IYQ
18958 Carillo Court
Sonoma, CA 95476

The date is the upper right is your expiration date. If yours is less than xx/xx/02, it's time to renew.
TNX es 73, Steve, K2IYQ

NOTE: VOMARC VE sessions for the rest of the year are scheduled for April 27, the Hamfest; August 10; and November 16. Remember to mark your calendars and let's get those new hams to these test sessions.

ACS 2002 Net Control Operators
March – W6TWQ
April – KA6OFR
May – W6WXU
June – KG6ASY
July – K9OOU
August – N6KM
September – W6JFN
October – K6XH
November – K2IYQ
December – K6UUW

The VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 6 EDITION 1

A publication of the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF
Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS
Jim Hill, K6UUW – President
Howard Johnson, W8ABT – Vice Pres.
Joan Brady, W6WXU – Secretary
Steve Todd, K2IYQ – Treasurer
Gerhard Straub, K6XH – Radio Officer
Ken McTaggert, N6KM – Club Trustee
Steve Todd, K2IYQ – Membership Chair
Darrel Jones, WD6BOR - Editor

Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC.

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month in McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, 15000 Arnold Drive, Eldridge. Meetings start at 19:30 local.

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is on 144.910 as “SNV1EC”. “SNVGW” can be used as a gateway digipeating on 223.66 MHz. The node name is “SNVND”.

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Denny’s Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

WD6BOR@VOM.COM or
K6UUW@VOM.COM or
K2IYQ@VOM.COM

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.
175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

Valley of the Moon ARC
18958 Carillo Court
Sonoma, CA 95476

REMEMBER! THE FEBRUARY VOMARC MEETING IS THIS WEDNESDAY THE 20TH AT 7:30 P.M. AT MC DOUGAL HALL, AT THE SDC! CU THERE!

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP

VOMARC 2002 Membership Dues: $10/year individual; $5/year family member.
ARRL Membership Dues: $39/year; Over 65, $34/year with proof of age; Family, No QST $8/year.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name:_____CALL:_____EMAIL:_____

Address:_____APT:_____

City:_____State:_____ZIP:_____

Name:_____CALL:_____EMAIL:_____
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Name:_____CALL:_____EMAIL:_____
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VOMARC:$_____ARRL:$_____TOTAL:$_____

Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC –** 18958 Carillo Court, Sonoma, CA 95476-5570